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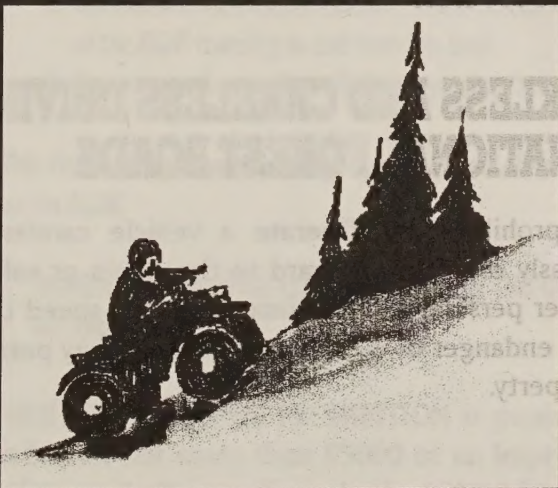
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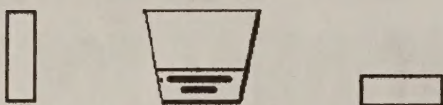
RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

TRAVEL GUIDELINES



TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Vehicular travel on the Rio Grande NF is restricted to designated Forest roads and Forest trails (See examples below) except for game retrieval during hunting season.



During the big game hunting season **only**, the Rio Grande NF allows travel off designated Forest roads and trails **to retrieve legally taken game animals from noon until dark only** with All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) or small off-highway vehicles (not to exceed 48" in width with balloon tires and low tire pressure); not to include motorcycles.

It is prohibited to transport weapons on ATV's while retrieving game off of Forest roads and trails. Care should be exercised to ride ATV's in a manner so as not to cause resource damage. Wet, steep areas should be avoided to prevent this kind of damage.

The Rio Grande National Forest map will provide all the necessary information you need to make plans to visit specific areas of the Forest. Travel Management is explained in detail in the map. ATV use, feed restrictions, 4-wheel drive, mountain bikes and more are addressed. Rio Grande National Forest maps are available at Forest offices and local retailers.

RECKLESS AND CARELESS DRIVING ON NATIONAL FOREST ROADS

It is prohibited to Operate a vehicle carelessly, recklessly or without regard to the rights or safety of other persons or in a manner or at a speed that would endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property.

Violation of these regulations is punishable by a fine of up to \$5000 or an imprisonment of up to six (6) months or both (16 USC 551)

Please drive safely while on the Forest.

PERMANENT CLOSURES

Wilderness Areas are permanently closed to motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment, including bicycles. The Rio Grande National Forest includes the La Garita Wilderness, the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness, the South San Juan Wilderness and the Weminuche Wilderness.



COLORADO LAW

HOW DOES IT APPLY ON THE RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

Question: I'm a Colorado resident and I own an off-highway vehicle (OHV) I'd like to ride on the Rio Grande NF. Do I have to register it with the State of Colorado?

Answer: Any motorized vehicle that is not required to have a license plate must still be registered with the State of Colorado.

Question: I'm NOT a Colorado resident and I'd like to ride my ATV on the Rio Grande NF. Does it have to be registered?

Answer: Yes. Your vehicle must be registered somewhere, either in your home state or you may register it in Colorado. For registration information: (303) 719-1920.

Question: I have a licensed vehicle that I would like to drive on the roads in the Rio Grande NF. Do I need some kind of a permit?

Answer: No.

Question: This is really confusing, Where can I operate a licensed vehicle on the Rio Grande NF?

Answer: Motorized Trails are single-track trails open to licensed motorcycles and certain types of ATV's. Authorized Open Roads are those roads on the Rio Grande NF that are open to both ATV travel and licensed vehicle travel. These roads have verticle-format signs that provide the road number. Check with the District Office where you intend to ride for more specific information. Please remember persons operating licensed vehicles on all Forest roads are subject to Colorado traffic laws and must have a valid driver's license. Persons operating an ATV on these Authorized Open Roads must have a driver's license or be over 10 years of age and be supervised by a licensed ATV operator who has a valid license. ("Supervised" means that the licensed operator must be in visual contact with the unlicensed operator).

Question: Where can I get an ATV or OHV

Registration? **Answer:** ATV Registration stickers can be purchased for \$15.25 a year at Colorado Division of Parks and Recreation Offices, sporting goods stores and ATV/OHV dealers.

Question: There seems to be a lot of private land within the National Forest. Can I cross private

property to get to the Forest? **Answer:** Respect to private property, when operating any kind of vehicle should be a primary concern of the operator. You may only cross private land if an easement exists or you have the permission of the land owner. Check with the District Office to find out if easements exist to provide for access.



WEED - FREE HAY

SPECIAL ORDER 93-1

Pursuant to 36 CFR-50(a), beginning October 1, 1992 until further notice, it is prohibited to possess, use, store or transport any of the following plants on the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) as specified in this order: Hay, straw, mulch or untreated grain, CFR 261-68(t). The regulations are in addition to those enumerated in Subpart A, 36 CFR 261.

WHAT'S ALLOWED?...

The only materials that will be allowed are:

1. Colorado Certified Noxious Weed-Free Hay and/or Straw
2. Cubed hay
3. Pelletized hay
4. Steamed Grain
5. Mulch made from tree fibers or mulch that has been treated by steaming or other means to eliminate weed seeds.

WHO'S EXEMPT?...

Pursuant to 36 CFR.261-50(e), the following persons are exempted from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise Prohibited Act.
2. Owners or lessees of land located within the external boundary of the RGNF traveling to and from this land.
3. Persons traveling on State Highways passing through the RGNF.

This Closure Order enacted to help control spread of noxious weeds on the RGNF.

**DONE AT MONTE VISTA, COLORADO, THIS 1st DAY OF
OCTOBER, 1992**

VIOLATION OF THIS PROHIBITION is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000 or an imprisonment of up to six (6) months or both, 16 USC 551.

LOCAL GROWERS OF COLORADO CERTIFIED WEED-FREE HAY

A list of local growers of Colorado Certified Weed-Free Hay/Straw should be available at RGNF offices. This list will provide names, addresses and phone numbers of growers statewide who provide a certified product. For additional information you may contact:

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Locally 852-3983

Denver (303) 239-4150

RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

**SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE
1803 WEST HWY 160
MONTE VISTA, CO 81144
(719) 852-5941**

**CONEJOS PEAK RANGER DISTRICT
15571 COUNTY RD. T-5
LA JARA, CO 81140
(719) 274-8971**

**SAGUACHE RANGER DISTRICT
46525 STATE HWY 114
SAGUACHE, CO 81149
(719) 655-2547**

**DIVIDE RANGER DISTRICT, DEL NORTE OFFICE
13308 W. HWY 160, BOX 40
DEL NORTE, CO 81132
(719) 657-3321**

**DIVIDE RANGER DISTRICT, CREEDE OFFICE
3RD & CREEDE, BOX 270
CREEDE, CO 81130
(719) 658-2556**

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